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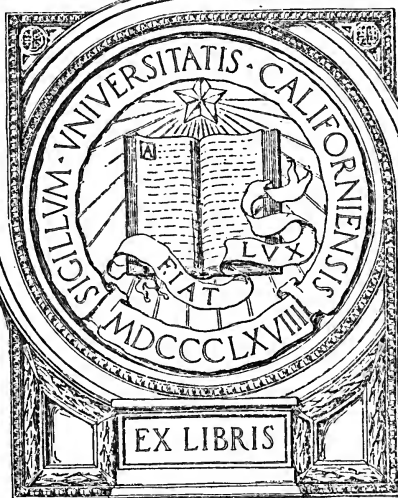
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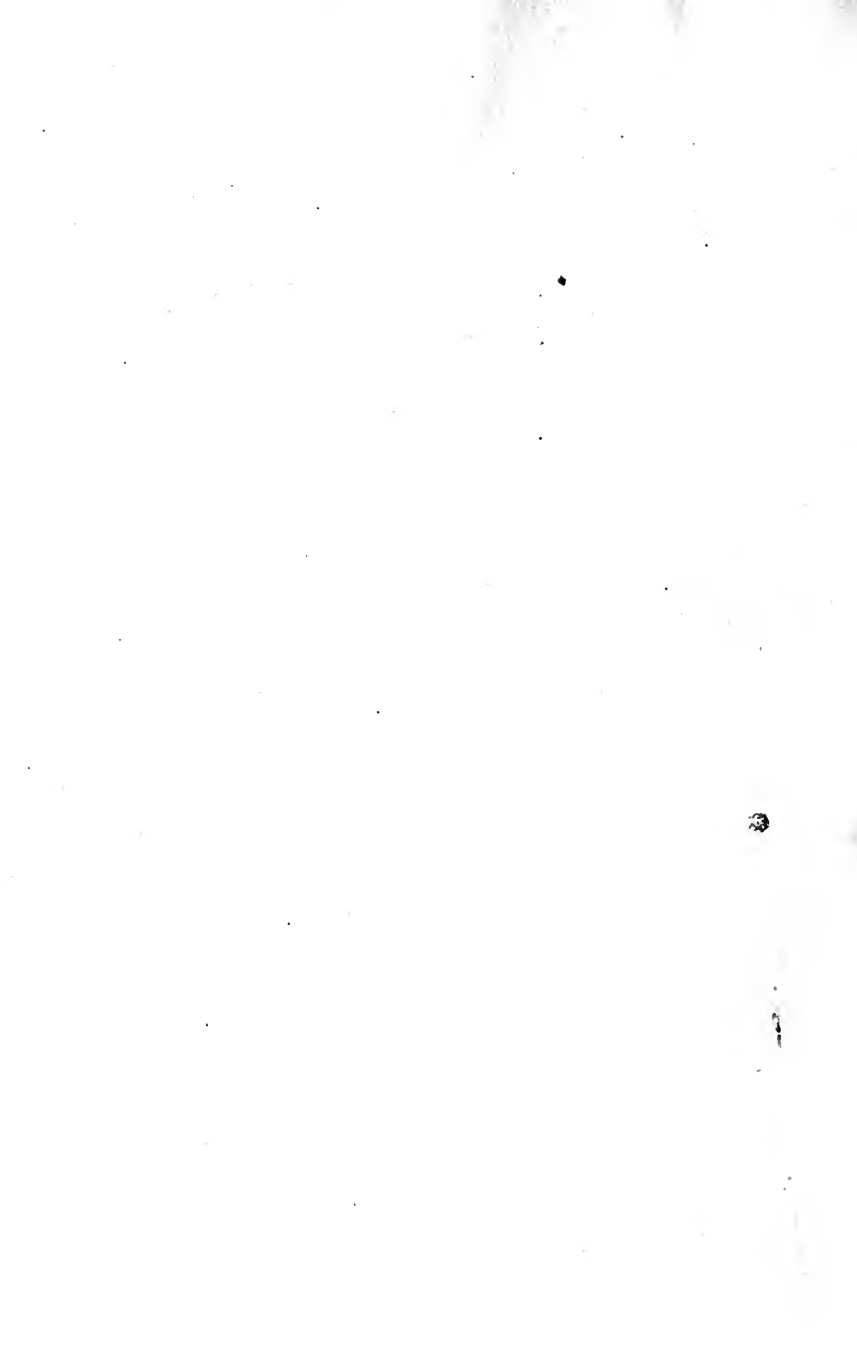
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THE FERRET

A BOOK ON EDUCATION, FREE FROM
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RELIGIONS OR BIASED
OPINIONS

BY

H. L. DODGE

Author of

"The Blonde Eskimo"

"Kaiser Nicotine"

Etc.



H. L. Dodge

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Long Beach, California
U. S. A.

THE NEW
ALPHABET

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THE FERRET

INTRODUCTION

This book bears the title of "Ferret." The meaning of the word is—well, look it up. It may get you into the habit of research, which is the foundation of a good education.

You may find many a teacher or critic who will attempt to explain the articles appearing in this book according to their theory and belief (superstition), which may be in contradiction to what is here, but unless they can furnish you authentic facts without political or religious partiality they are trying to keep honest thought from being expressed, and are an obstruction and hindrance to civilization and education.

You may wonder at some of the statements which this book contains, but not having received a public school education, my knowledge has been obtained through investigation, inquiry and research. Books of authority have been my counsel, and not opinions, pretensions or mistranslations; therefore, I find thousands of things in the common education that are not real.

So in this work, I am leaving many missing links for you to connect. It is possible through research for you to do this, and perhaps in so doing you may obtain much knowledge which has never been taught to you, either in school or out.

Who is so satisfied with his own knowledge that to him it is a waste of time to search further for wisdom?

Our aim is to draw your attention to just a few of the thousands of mistakes permitted in the public schools, which are taught our coming generations

through ignorant newspaper reporters and by careless parents. As the first example of mistakes of this kind, we will ask you to notice the title page of the dictionary. Seventy-five per cent. of the public say "Daniel Webster's Dictionary." This renowned man never wrote a dictionary, nor had anything to do with compiling one. History tells us that he was a statesman and an orator; the dictionary states that the author of the book was Noah Webster, the man who laid the foundation for the American language, which is the most powerful and universal language of the earth—not English, but American, for there are only twenty-five per cent. of American words that owe their origin to the Anglo-Saxon. Inasmuch as Noah was a less prominent man than Daniel, the latter is often given credit for writing the dictionary by those who never investigate, but take for granted what they are told. Although it is often quoted, "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise"; better say, only the wise seek wisdom. For that reason please do not take for granted anything in this book. Unless you know it to be a fact, take the pains to look it up. It can be found in various books of knowledge, for belief is superstition and knowledge is a fact; what you know you know, and what you believe you only think you know. So woe unto the man who attempts to teach what he thinks to a man who knows better.

MEN WHO THINK ADVANCE THE WORLD

As you read this book, study, research and think, for men who think advance the world, but men who do not think follow the crowd.

This book is furnished you incomplete. If it is

your pleasure, complete it, but in so doing do not accept theories, opinions, beliefs, superstition, or explanation from ignorance garbed with authority.

MISINFORMATION

It appears that when the public once becomes possessed of a bit of misinformation it clings thereto with curious persistency, no matter upon what good authority the mistake may be pointed out. If we institute an inquiry along any particular line we very soon discover that our authorities are uprooting and utterly doing to death some of our fondest little beliefs. We find not only that we have believed decidedly in the wrong, through misinformation, or lack of information, but that we have been positively and often assertively wrong, having taken our firm stand on what later develops to be absolutely misinformation. This holds true with reference to things animate and inanimate, past and present.

AMERICANS DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH

One of the strangest things of today is our persistence in applying the names of the classical past to the whims and fancies of our own times. Take, for instance, the language in which we Americans clothe our daily thought. Isn't it commonly supposed that we speak the English language—the language of the inhabitants of Great Britain, which was brought into Britannia by the Angles and Saxons, two of the Teutonic tribes which early invaded that island and from which the names England and English are derived? Isn't it commonly understood that an American of the State of California could engage in conversation with an Englishman of the British County

of Kent? However, it is a fact that, first, neither our conversational nor our written language bears the slightest resemblance to the English language as spoken, even in the Mid-Victorian era. Second, our American language—for it is almost distinctly American—being an admixture of our own unexcelled slang and the jargon of immigrants representing every tribe and nation of mankind, is practically quite unintelligible today to the native of Kent. Therefore, it will be seen that we Americans do not speak English, even while the writer must admit that we use, perhaps, twenty-five per cent. of English words, so why call our language English? Why not give America credit for what rightfully belongs to her?

In proof, consider the following portion of a page in strict English, from the gospel of St. Mark, as it appeared in earlier English, before the inhabitants of Great Britain had learned to speak the language we now use:

“THAET GOSPEL

AEFTER MARCUS GERECEDNYSSE.

1. Her ye Godspellye angyn Haelendes Cristes, Godes Suna; ewa awriten ys on thaes witegan bec Isaian, Nu ic asende minne engel beforan thine aneyne, se gegearwath thinne weg beforan the. Clypiende stefn on tham westene, Gegearwiath Dryhtnes weg, doth rihte his sithas. Johannes waes on westene, fulligende, and bodiende daed-bote fulwiht, on synna forgyfenesee. And to hym ferde eall Iudeics rice, and ealle Hierosolima-ware, and waeron fram hym gefullode on Iordanes flode, hyra synna anddettende. And Ichannes waes gescryd mid oluendes haerum, and fellen gyrdel waes ymbe hys lendenu, and gaerstapan and wudu-hunig he aet; and he bodode, and cwaeth;

Strengra cymth aefter me, thaes ne eom in wyrthe thaet ic hys sceona thwanga bugende uncnytte. Ic fullige eow on waetere; he eow fullath on Halgum Gaste. And on than dagum com se Haslend fram Nazareth Galilee, and waes gefullod on Iordane fram Iohanne. And sona of tham waetere, he geseah opene heofenas, and Haligne Gast swa culfran astigende, and on hym wunigende; and tha waes stefn of heofenum geworden;”

Then why say we speak English?

Even the language of Chaucer, the father of English poetry, must be translated into the American language before it becomes intelligible to the students in our educational institutions. Following is an extract from Chaucer's "Prologues to the Canterbury Tales":

"Here Beginneth the Book of the Tales of Caunterbury:

WHAN that Aprille with his shoures sote
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the rote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne,
And smale fowles maken meloyde,
That slepen al the night with open ye,
(So priketh hem nature in hir corages):
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
(And palmers for to seken straunge Strondes)
To ferne halwes, couthe in sondry londes;
And specially, from every shires ende
Of Engelond, to Caunterbury they wende,

The holy blisful martir for to seke,
 That hem hath holpen, whan that they were seke."
 Below is a free translation into American of this
 prologue:

CHAUCER'S CANTERBURY PILGRIMS

Retold by Katharine Lee Bates

THE TABARD INN AND THE PILGRIMS

When the sweet showers from skies of April blue
 The drought of March have pierced through and
 through

And bathed each vein in sap whose silent power
 Quickens the bud and nourishes the flower.
 When the soft west wind with his fragrant breath
 Awakened hath in every wood and heath
 The tender shoots and when the blithe young sun
 His summer course through heaven hath well begun,
 And little birds scarce wait till night is gone
 To hail with melody the springing dawn,—
 For so the joy of nature pricks the heart,—
 Then people long from houses to depart
 And go a-journeying for love of God
 To far-off shrines whose fame is noised abroad,
 And specially from every county's end
 Of England men to Canterbury wend
 The holy blissful Martyr to adore
 Whose help has healed them of the ills they bore.

DEFINITIONS OF AMERICAN WORDS

Definitions of even the most common American words will be found to be replete with interesting and often most surprising information. Many a man who has decided to study the derivation and meaning of words has found that he was really providing himself with a new source of recreation and pleasure,

that opened endless vistas of divertisement, no less than boundless fields of knowledge. What he set himself as a task became presently an alluring avocation.

The wisdom of the old Greek who declared "there is no royal road to learning" has often been applauded, but this famous aphorism may be challenged by the man who has acquired the habit of turning habitually to his books of learning for his education, rather than depending upon receiving his information by word of mouth—for this source more than half the time is not dependable. After all, authority on education is vested in books of learning, not in one's grandmother, or friend, or newspapers.

PITFALLS IN SPELLING

Largely because of its conglomerate origin, American is the language which of all others seems to have neither rhyme nor reason in the spelling and the pronunciation of its words. Who attempts to write an ordinary letter without coming upon familiar words, the spelling of which makes one pause? Does the "e" come before the "i" or after it in "receive"? And what of grieve, deceive, achieve, conceive, and believe; and why not "heive" for heave, or "lieve" for leave? Are there two "m's" or only one in recommend? And how many "s's" in assassinated? And so of hundreds of other familiar words. How many words can you find with "q" and not "u" immediately afterwards? Can you tell? And if these two letters must be together why not make one letter of it?

Consider, too—the endless pitfalls in the numberless groups of words having the same sound but different spellings and meanings,—such groups, for ex-

ample, as peak, peek, pique; and pear, pare and pair; fair, and fare (with four distinct meanings); peer, and pier; rain, rein, reign, and rhein; take the following sentence: "Mr. Wryght the wheelwright did not write the church rite right." One knows the spelling, of course, but when the brain is just a little fagged, it is not always easy to remember. Everyone knows that good spelling is necessary in commercial work. Then why not learn to spell in school?

There are a great many words that end in "able" or "ible." "Inequitable" is one example, "convertible" is another. Only a stenographer with a natural gift for orthography can be sure when to use an "a," or when "i" is correct. No matter how good a training one receives in school, unless one is taught correct spelling of the American language he is of but little practical use as a stenographer.

EMERSON, THE WEAVER OF WORDS

Ralph Waldo Emerson, one of our great American poets, was a wonderful weaver—he wove new and rich words into sentences, sentences brilliant and polished and full of the wisdom for which he was so famous! And these sentences he gathered and treasured up until he wove them into his essays and his lectures. He had a relish for strange words and like many great writers he made up many new words or revived ancient ones to fill his needs of expression. He did not hesitate to say "analogize" and "gigantize" and "anthropometer"; and words like "plenipotence," "pudency," "recentness" and "otherest" are a few words which contributed to make his diction, as Lowell said, "rich and homely, like homespun cloth-of-gold."

Yet he was an American, and helped to make the American language.

ERRONEOUS PRONUNCIATION

Read the following paragraph aloud:

Fortunately one does not need to pronounce words while one writes them, nor even in ordinary reading. But did you ever find yourself suddenly called upon to read aloud before some critically inclined person? The article may be ever so simple, yet there are pitfalls lurking in the commonest words. You cast a rapid eye ahead and immediately strike a few rocks. No time to decide which pronunciation to choose—so you plunge in, accenting address, adult, alternate, condolence, comparable, grimace, testator, adept and acclimate, on the first syllable, when your critical American listener knows that you should stress the second; accenting the second syllable of construe, lamentable, harass, hospitals and decade, when the correct pronunciation of every one of them, as you learn from the dictionary, calls for the accent on the first syllable. These are things that you do not learn in school without special request or as an advanced scholar.

How many did you pronounce correctly?

It is not a pleasant experience, for uncertainty is never a comfortable feeling. And if your choice of pronunciation is challenged, and you can only say you're not sure just how the word should be spoken, do you not fall a little in your own esteem—do you not feel that you failed to meet a situation? You may be ever so well-read, familiar with a large number of words, but if when you speak you cannot pronounce such words as those cited above with any

degree of certainty, who can credit your background of knowledge?

Correct pronunciation is not only a matter of accenting the right syllables—it includes the distinct enunciation of all letters. Richard Grant White said: “It is in the delicate but firm utterance of the unaccented vowels with correct sounds that the cultured person is most surely distinguished from the uncultured.”

You may be acquainted with all their contents and secrets, but if you say “libr’y” and “gover’ment” and drop your “g’s” from “ing” endings, you will put yourself quite unmistakably outside the lines of true culture.

“The consonant,” said Richard Grant White, “is the distinguishing element of human speech. Man has been defined in various ways, according to various attributes, functions and habits. He might well be called the consonant-using animal. He alone of all animals uses consonants. It is the consonant which makes the chief difference between the cries of beasts and the speech of man.”

There are also a certain number of words which may be pronounced in two ways. Although it is always best to adopt the one preferred by such high authority as the dictionary or encyclopedia, still you may want to justify yourself if perhaps your choice is questioned. Tell the one who seems so sure he has the only correct pronunciation that contemplate, coruscate, costume, decorous, disputable, and diversely may be accented on either the first or second syllables. If you stressed the second syllable, then add that that is the preference given by the best authority.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS

Then again the American language when properly pronounced teaches one to appreciate the fine shades of meaning which mark the works of the great writers. To enjoy fully the mere "swing" of the best prose may require some natural gift, like the inborn taste for poetry or music or pictures. When you can do this, you can get closer to the writer's idea, and penetrate further into his personality, just as with a magnifying glass you can discover new beauties in the structure of a flower. This does not mean that passage you are investigating was at first sight meaningless—nor even obscure; nor that it contains a single word that was altogether new to you. It means that in addition to its obvious meaning it has a further and deeper significance which the ordinary reader would altogether miss and which he never would be able to perceive until he ferreted out the various meanings of different words.

DRAWING CONTRACTS

For example, in drawing contracts it requires good usage of our language and good comprehension of that same language to give certainty of one's bearings. Suppose a man should be employed to collect rents and be allowed, as many contracts read, "ten per cent. remittance." If he were to collect one hundred dollars, your first thought would be that he should retain ten dollars. But if he retained ten dollars he could send his employer only ninety dollars. Therefore his "remittance" would amount to only nine dollars, an illustration of the value of these two words, "remit" and "retain." If you do not yet see their value, ferret it out! We will not selfishly de-

prive you of the pleasure. There are hundreds of other words of even more importance that are apt to be misunderstood for want of close observation.

INFORMATION FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES

Don't expect to find authority on these matters in your small family dictionary, for in many cases it is not correct. It may have been compiled by someone who is of a biased opinion. Better to use some of the large, well-known encyclopedias and dictionaries, and foreign histories on matters pertaining to foreign countries.

For instance, in your family dictionary you might find the statement that a Jew is an infidel, while in any large encyclopedia you will find that, as well as many similar statements, contradicted.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S VIEWS ON EDUCATION

Benjamin Franklin, writing to a lady who asked him to give her advice about writing, said:

"I would advise you to read with a pen in your hand, and enter in a little book short hints of what you find that is curious or that may be useful—and as many of the terms of science are such as you cannot have met with in your common reading, and may therefore be unacquainted with, I think it would be well for you to have a good dictionary at hand to consult immediately when you meet a word you do not know the precise meaning of. This may at first seem troublesome and interrupting, but it is a trouble that will daily diminish, and you will daily find less and less occasion for your dictionary, as you will become more acquainted with the terms; and in the

meantime you will read with more satisfaction because with more understanding."

Place an encyclopedia or dictionary in the hands of your boys and girls; have them take John Ruskin's advice, and look at words, "intensely," and counsel them to acquire the dictionary habit; then you have given them what may confidently be regarded as more than the equivalent of a monetary legacy—and something they cannot acquire even in a college course.

NICETIES OF CORRECT ACCENT

Is the accent on the first or on the second syllable of precedence? And what about precedent? Is the "a" long or short in national? And what about rational? One can name at random a score of common words beginning with the first letter of the alphabet that offer pronunciation puzzles; for example, access, accursed, acoustic, advertisement, aeroplane, aeronaut, again, aggrandizement, almond, Albino, amateur, ally, annex, apparent, apricot, Appalachian, arbutus, artizen, Aryan, aspirant, asthma, aristocrat.

It makes one feel foolish when reading to be obliged to hesitate over such words, even more foolish to feel that one has mispronounced them, and of course what applies to reading applies equally to our ordinary conversation, except that here we may pick and choose our words. But is it not a little humiliating to find ourselves avoiding this word or that because we are not quite sure how to pronounce it? On the other hand, is there not an element of honest satisfaction in feeling that you have challenged the word and looked it up in a dictionary, encyclopedia or some other book of authority, and do not have to go on mispronouncing the word your entire life, be-

cause you happened to learn the wrong pronunciation when you were a child? So, when you are not sure, investigate, through reliable written authority—become a “ferret.” If you wanted to get rich you would not ask a beggar how to accomplish it; if you wanted to become a baker you would not ask a blacksmith to teach you the trade; if you wanted to make a success in business you would not ask advice from a man who had gone into bankruptcy. So, if you want authority, do not ask a professor who will give you only his own opinion, but look it up yourself.

THE SCIENCE OF SPEECH

Read thoughtfully the following passage quoted from Bernard Shaw:

“How do you do it, if I may ask?” inquired a gentleman.

“Simply phonetics,” replied Professor Higgins, “the science of speech. That’s my profession; also my hobby. Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby! You can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshireman by his brogue. I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.”

“But is there a living in that?”

“Oh, yes. Quite a fat one. This is an age of upstarts.”

And the story of how he actually did take a poor flower girl who had a dialect incomprehensible to the educated ear, and every conceivable vulgarity of speech, and successfully passed her off as a countess at a garden-party six months later—that is the story of Pygmalion, by Bernard Shaw.

The lesson which Bernard Shaw drives home in the

above is that there is nothing which defines any one's position in the world quite so unmistakably as speech—his pronunciation, his accent, and his choice of words. It is his speech which immediately places him in the class to which he truly belongs; it is the difference in speech which separates one stratum of society from another.

In his preface Shaw says: "Finally and for the encouragement of people troubled with accents that cut them off from all high employment, I may add that the change wrought by Professor Higgins is neither impossible nor uncommon.

"The modern concierge's daughter, who fulfils her ambition by playing the Queen of Spain, in 'Ruy Blas,' at the Theatre Francais, is only one of the many thousands of men and women who have sloughed off their native dialects and acquired a new tongue," and the English, for example, have to do this when they come to this country before their language escapes ridicule from the American listener.

One does not ordinarily think of a dictionary as a book to read. And an ordinary dictionary would, in point of fact, afford scant opportunity for consecutive reading. But, on the other hand, he must have a very barren and unresponsive mind indeed who could read any single page of approximately a 10,000 page dictionary, or any other good book of its kind, without receiving an education in itself far in excess of any he could receive in a public school, without having his attention challenged again and again, and his interest keenly aroused and directed into unexpected channels. Every page gives delightful glimpses into aspects of human life so wide and so varied as to command the attention of minds of the

most diverse types; and there is probably not a single page that does not contain some statement of fact, touching on a matter of human interest, that will not be new or unfamiliar to the reader, no matter how extensive may have been his education or how profound his knowledge.

It may be urged that one does not ordinarily buy a dictionary with the expectation of reading it in any such random way as that just suggested. Nevertheless it is true that any number of idle hours might be pleasantly and profitably passed in just such random reading, because it is an education to anyone. We hear a great deal from educators as to what might be accomplished in the way of self-betterment by half an hour a day devoted to some special line of reading. It may safely be affirmed that no book or collection of books could be selected for such half-hour reading that would give one a wider range of self-culture than would attend the readings of the dictionary or foreign histories, merely for the sake of reading.

Doubtless this sounds a little paradoxical; but the paradox vanishes when we reflect that words are the symbols of thought; that the history of words is in a comprehensive sense the history of human progress; that words can be understood only when interpreted in connection with the ideas and things associated with them; and that the dictionary thus explains and illustrates every word in our language,—revealing its derivation, naming the corresponding or associated words in other languages, showing through quotations the nicest shades of meanings, giving its synonyms and antonyms, and its implications and

remoter bearing, besides the essential facts and ideas for which our American language stands.

Thus presented and interpreted, even familiar words reveal elements of unexpected and compelling interest for the most casual reader.

CHOICE AND CONTRAST OF WORDS

Robert Louis Stevenson said: "The first merit which attracts in the pages of a good writer, or the talk of a brilliant conversationalist, is the apt choice and contrast of the words employed." How true this is of his own writings! The "apt choice and contrast of the words" is surely one of Stevenson's greatest charms. Whether describing the bleak heather lands of Scotland, or the riotous scenery of the South Sea Islands; whether discoursing on the requirements for an ideal house, or the pleasure in the companionship of books, he chooses his terms so that we see with his eyes, we feel as he wishes us to feel, and how great is the art which thus selects and combines the right words! He himself says: "The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish."

For another proof that we do not speak English, we will take the common word "father" as we pronounce it. This will be a good example to illustrate how a definition in our language is made, and why words are things of life.

Everyone knows the first meaning of the word father. Small dictionaries content themselves with a simple definition, such as "male parent or ancestor." Through research the word may be traced way back to the beginning of the language of mankind. Isn't

it interesting to know the forms of this word in other days and other languages? We find that it used to be "fader" in Anglo-Saxon and English. The "th" which took the place of "d" is a modern form—it may be to conform with Anglo-Saxon "brother," or with the Icelandic forms "fadhír" and "modhír." Although "fader" was the most general term in English, there were also variations in spelling, such as "fadir," "feder," "faeder."

So much for the origin of the word. Now comes the task of listing the different meanings of "father" and of finding appropriate quotations to illustrate these meanings. Consultation of all early and contemporary dictionaries for their various definitions of the word, and searching through ancient, mediaeval and modern literature, satisfies us that no application has escaped our quest. Would it have occurred to you that there could be more than two or three meanings of the word? Here are our findings:

First comes the primary definition, which is simply: "He who begets a child; the nearest male ancestor; a male parent, so-called in relation to the child." This being the commonest use of the word in the American language, we have no difficulty in getting satisfactory quotations, beginning with "Now by my fader soule that is dead," from Chaucer, and ending with "A wise son maketh a glad father," from Proverbs.

However, "father" was the title of senators in ancient Rome; there are "conscript fathers," the "Father of the Roman Catholic Church," and many other such "fathers" that one may best learn of through research and study.

WORDS ADOPTED FROM OTHER LANGUAGES

During the 16th and 17th centuries the influence of politics and commerce through trade, wars and colonization, caused the adoption into our language of many Spanish words, while some Holland words came in during the period between the "Dutch" wars and the reign of William III, who had been William of Orange. The 16th and 17th centuries marked the beginning of England's empire beyond the seas, of her relations with the Far East and India, and the planting of American colonies—from which resulted the use of Indian words, words from India, from the East Indies, from the West Indies and from the red American natives, North, Central and South.

A NEWSPAPER EDUCATION

Have you a newspaper education or well founded book learning? Do you see more pleasure in reading statements that end with "This is not authentic," or in storing your mind with time-proven matter,—with studies of Hippocrates, the "father of medicine"; of Socrates, the "father of philosophy"; or Plato, or of Aristotle? These might seem dry at first, but if you continued to read you would turn back and re-read the beginning with great interest. Would not your time then be better occupied?

Again, do you know your Holy Bible, the book of most easy access and worthy of much study? Did your educational desire ever lead you to see how near Confucius may compare with it? A newspaper education would halt you on your first step toward gaining a real fund of knowledge.

So become thoroughly acquainted with the American language, for it helps one to see the defects in

even the daily papers. If one could see the majority of newspaper writers he would be ashamed to acknowledge ever having read anything which purported to be written for intelligence or the truth by them.

BOOGY-BOO HEADLINES

There are two Russian words that have recently been adopted as headliners by the newspaper fraternity for boogy-boo effects on the public—and with the desired results. The most popular is “bolsheviki,” which properly translated into American would mean “majority,” just as “mensheviki” means “minority.” The other much used word is “anarchist,” which really means “individualist,” or one who stands alone in his ideas. If you doubt this statement, look it up in a Russian dictionary. That is the best place to find it.

A GREAT AMERICAN EDUCATOR

Horace Mann was in his time the leading educator in America. Born in Franklin, Mass., of parents who were not financially able to afford him even a common school education, he became a wonderful example of what may be accomplished through determination, effort and research. He not only was handicapped by poverty, but by severe manual labor his health was impaired. Nevertheless, he determined to study, so took advantage of the small local library, where he began his education. To what extent an humble beginning may be developed is plainly shown by the accomplishments of this wonderful man. He not only became financially independent, but he wrote many educational books. More important still, his addresses and lectures greatly benefited his fellowmen, by help-

ing to extend the present free school system throughout the United States.

Furthermore, this busy man found time to look into national politics, having been elected to the House of Representatives as an anti-slavery Whig to succeed John Quincy Adams.

This one example of what study, research and investigation will accomplish, should spur us on at least to familiarize ourselves with ordinary uses and abuses of the American language, not to mention absolute facts which are often misrepresented by careless writers.

Again I repeat, "ferret" out these things!

SMALL BEGINNINGS

The county house is not a place of charity, any more than is the public school, for both are maintained by taxation; so, inasmuch as the child pays no taxes, yet is furnished with a means of education by the taxed people, some of whom have no children, he or she is receiving more free benefits than the man who, having paid taxes all of his adult life, late in life is forced through adverse circumstances, or old age, to seek aid and a haven at the county farm. As a matter of fact, there is many a man who has no children going to school, and possibly never attended a school himself, who pays hundreds of dollars in taxes towards the maintenance of such schools; while there are other men who have large families of children enjoying these educational benefits, who have never paid any taxes. One of the first public schools in the United States was taught in the wing of a county house by an inmate, who, in his younger days, was a private tutor and went from house to house

giving private lessons for a nominal fee, which was the custom before public schools were inaugurated. So the public school really had its beginning in the county house and was called a "poor school." Great things have small beginnings. At that time it was just as much of a disgrace to go to the "poor school" as it is now to go to the county farm. So hold up your head if you are compelled to go to the county house, for you have paid your way there and own stock in it sufficient to take care of you in your old age.

ONE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

In 1635 the freemen of the five-year-old town of Boston established a school and made public provision for its support. This was the beginning of the present famous Latin School of that city. In 1647 Massachusetts passed a law requiring every town of fifty householders to maintain a master to teach reading and writing, and every town of one hundred householders to maintain a grammar school with a master competent to fit youths for entrance to college, wages of such master to be paid by parents whose children took advantage of the instruction, or by the inhabitants in general. In 1633 the first Dutch schoolmaster arrived at Manhattan, when a school tax amounting to four pounds was levied and collected. In 1638 New Haven set up a school under Ezekiel Cheever, who was paid "out of the common stock of the town."

FIRST COLLEGE IN UNITED STATES

The first college in the United States was established by the Court of Boston in 1836 at Newetowne.

The name of the town was afterwards changed to Cambridge by Rev. John Harvard, who bequeathed his library and seven hundred pounds of money to the college, which afterwards bore his name.

THE ART OF PRINTING

The art of printing was not first invented by Europeans. To the Chinese, or Cathaians, must be given the credit for the invention of printing. The Celestials were printing from movable blocks when Europe was in its infancy, and this method was introduced into Europe about the 12th century, for the purpose of ornamenting fabrics.

About the 15th century there was a Deutch (German) lad bearing the strange name of Johann Gensfleisch (translated into plain American this means John Gooseflesh), who was one day playing near a pot of boiling dye, with which his father was preparing to color some skins. He had cut the letters of his name from the bark of a tree, and was spreading them out to form his name, when one accidentally fell into the pot of dye. Quickly John plunged in his fingers to rescue the letter. Finding it hot, he dropped it. It fell upon one of the white skins which was waiting to be dyed, and when John lifted the block away he saw a beautiful purple "H" smiling at him. This was the first letter ever printed on the continent of Europe!

In 1450 we find a printing press working in Mainz, under the direction of Johann Gutenberg, who had changed his name from Gooseflesh, availing himself of the old Deutch (German) law which permitted a child to take his mother's name instead of his father's, if he so desired. This newer discovery of the art of

printing revolutionized the world. So much for John Gutenberg's contribution to the art of printing. Then we have Laurens Janszoon Coster, of Haarlem, Holland, who was the first inventor of movable type, but Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer, of Deutchland (Germany), were the first to put the movable type into practical use. The first printer in England was William Caxton, who turned out his first book in London in 1479.

The first newspaper ever printed was published by the Cathaians (Chinese). It was called the Peking Tchingpao ("News of The Capital"). This momentous happening was in the year 713 of the T'ang dynasty. Later, during the Roman empire, there was a newspaper named the *Acta Diurna* ("Daily Occurrences") printed at Rome. The first newspaper in America was published in Boston in 1690, and was named "Public Occurrences." Now, think of the present-day influence of the newspaper over our daily lives. Think of its enormous possibilities for either good or evil. It is impossible to over-estimate the direct and powerful influence of reading upon our lives, so be careful of what you read, for poisoned reading destroys nations.

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN UNITED STATES

Benjamin Franklin did not publish the first newspaper in the United States. The first one in America, called "Publick Occurrences," was published in Boston in 1690; it was a small quarto sheet having one page blank, and, for containing "reflexions of a very high nature," it was suppressed by the Governor. In 1728 Benjamin Franklin established in Philadelphia the "Philadelphia Gazette," published as a weekly until

1765, when it was merged in the "North American." In 1725 the Colonies had two newspapers; in 1775, thirty-four were in existence. In the following years a number were established, and among them America's two first dailies, the "Advertiser," of Philadelphia, 1784, and the "Advertiser," of New York, 1785. The advent of journalism came in 1830. The "Daily Sun," established in New York in 1833, was the first penny paper in America. The New York "Herald" was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835, and the New York "Tribune" was established in 1841, with Horace Greeley as editor.

THE FIRST RAILROAD IN AMERICA

The first railroad in America, built by Gridley Bryant, in 1825, was four miles long and was intended to carry granite from Quincy, Mass., to Bunker Hill monument. In 1827, the Mauch Chunk railway, thirteen miles long, was built to carry coal. In the same year a charter was granted to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad for the construction of the first road, intended to carry passengers by means of steam.

THE FIRST BICYCLE

The first bicycle in America was patented in 1866 by Lallament. It was called a velocipede. The old-style high wheel was introduced into New York City in 1874. The Pope Manufacturing Company began making wheels in Boston in 1878 and produced the first American safety bicycle in 1888. The pneumatic tire was patented by Dunlap in 1889.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE OLD WORLD THAT WE ARE NOT TAUGHT IN THE NEW WORLD

POLYANDRY

The ancient Empire of Abyssinia, in Africa, had the first system of free schools in the world. Abyssinia also is one of the oldest of Christian countries, a fact which may startle some of the disciples of Jesus in western lands. The present Empress of Abyssinia claims direct descent from Solomon's royal paramour, the Queen of Sheba. Her majesty is the most noted example of polyandry, having five hundred husbands.

THE MOST ANCIENT INHABITED CITY IN THE WORLD

Neither Jerusalem, Damascus, Constantinople, Cairo nor Rome has the distinction of being the oldest inhabited city in the world. The strange old city of Gaya, India, can claim that honor. Indeed, Gaya is the most unique city on earth from the standpoint of curiosities. Some of its rare old buildings seem to be constructed of exquisite pieces of lace. The Temple of Mystery is one of the oldest and most fairy-like structures ever built by man. All Gaya's most beautiful, high-caste women live in its mysterious Zenanas in impenetrable seclusion.

KING SOLOMON WAS NOT A WHITE MAN

A real descendant of King Solomon, claims to the contrary notwithstanding, was the late Dinizulu, the last king of Zululand. While Dinizulu had the actual blood of Solomon coursing through his veins, the old

"Lover of Blood" made many very extravagant claims as to his genealogy and dignity, such as "Sun of Heaven," "Shadow of the Great White Bird," "Brother of the Ginginylorn" (elephant in Zulu), "Supreme Wielder of the Assagai." To Dinizulu, all other kings and princes were upstarts. However, the British government had the temerity to place him in a terrible dungeon, where the old sovereign died a few years ago. Nevertheless, he was a direct descendant of King Solomon, who was not a white man.

FAMILY INTERMARRIAGE DESTROYS NATIONS

Mark Antony, Caesar, et al., were the "ornamental lovers" of Egypt's scintillating queen, Cleopatra—the high priestess of the Lotus eaters. The man whom Cleopatra really loved was a powerful Ethiopian slave. The queen picked him from a number of thousands who were bathing in the Nile during one of her resplendant journeys on that famous stream. Cleopatra, however, was not married to any of her numerous admirers. The fact is, the enchantress of the Nile was the wife in succession of two of her own brothers. The first brother-husband she caused to be destroyed in order to marry the second. Thus, by this diabolical subterfuge, was she able to hold the Egyptian crown.

THE CITY OF LONDON IS NOT A MILE SQUARE

London (the capital of England and seat of government of the British Empire), known as the largest city of the world, is really but little over a square mile in extent, and in 1911 had a population of only 19,657. It extends along the north bank of the Thames, from the Temple to the Tower, and north-

ward as far as Holburn and Finsbury Circus, and is the business center, its "day" population exceeding 300,000. London is probably an ancient British town. It appears to have been re-settled by the Romans about 43 A.D., and Londinium (called also Augusta) was the capital of Britannia in the last part of the Roman period. After the departure of the Romans (about 410) and in the early Saxon period its history is obscure, though there were bishops of London from the seventh century. The London Wall was a Roman wall, built between 350 and 369, around the city of London ("the City"), and enclosed three hundred and eighty acres. There were two gates in it, the western gate, now Newgate for the Pretorian way or Watling Street, and a northern gate for the Road to York or Ermine Street, now Bishopgate. During the Danish invasion the wall was broken down, but was restored in 886. This was kept up till comparatively modern times, and fragments of it are still discernible. The most notable portion is in the street now called London Wall, between Wood Street and Aldermanbury. Greater London consists of the suburbs of Battersea, Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford, Finsbury, Fulham, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Hoburn, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Paddington, Poplar, St. Marylebone, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stepney, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster, Woolwich, City of London (all these known as the "inner ring"). The "outer ring" consists of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire. Not any of these suburbs are included in the corporation proper, so the City of London proper has never been enlarged beyond the sound of Bow-Bells,

which covers 380 acres. All of these outlying municipalities account for the lengthy addresses on mail destined primarily for London, but ultimately for either High Street, Essex; High Street, Chelsea, etc., for there are endless streets of the same name in the different boroughs.

THE "UNION JACK" IS NOT THE FLAG OF ENGLAND

The popular "Union Jack" of England is neither a royal nor imperial ensign. It is heralded by all Britons as simply a national emblem without any official sanction. The Union Jack, so-called, is made up of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, emblematic of the three saints, having sentimental and historical significances in the islands. The real flag of England is the "Royal Standard," used only on state occasions and flown to the breeze only at the masts of the royal palaces when the sovereign is in residence. Its design is made up of mythical animals surmounted by the royal crown. A remarkable fact remains that, although the British domain constitutes a vast empire, there is no imperial flag. In the Empire of India, which is a British protectorate, the native princes still cling to the gorgeous banners in use during the Mogul dynasty.

POWER OF THE SULTAN

The Sultan of Turkey has not and never did have the power to declare a holy war between Mohammedans and people of a different name. It is the comparatively little known Sheriff of Mecca, the keeper of the Prophet's banner, in whose hands lies the power to call the Moslem world to arms in holy com-

bat. During the late world-war, feign would the Turkish Sultan have declared a holy war against the allied governments. He made several attempts to cajole the Sheriff of Mecca into so doing, but without avail; and thus was foiled one of the Kaiser's pet schemes.

CUSTOMS IN HAREMS

There is much misrepresentation with regard to the life and customs in the harems of Mohammedan rulers and persons of note. Be it said, and with authority, too, that the woman of the harem is more humanely treated than is many a wife in a so-called Christian land. According to a much traveled friend of the writer, who has been granted the unusual privilege in India and Egypt of studying at close range the women of these Oriental institutions, their inmates are lavishly provided for by their masters, each one having a separate apartment in which she is allowed to receive all of her friends and acquaintances, who, of course, must be ladies. Women are never introduced into harem life against their will. They are usually candidates for entry years before their admittance. It is necessary for them to become highly educated and accomplished, while relatives and friends must be perfectly willing that they leave the family surroundings for the gay and strange life of the palace. The present Sultan of Morocco has been known to take up beautiful, though poor and ignorant, girls, have them educated by foreign teachers within the precincts of his golden harem, then return them to private life, ladies in every respect. A girl belonging to a harem in Morocco, Turkey or India is more highly esteemed and respectfully treated than a bar-

maid in England, a yellow-ticket woman in Russia, and many, many alleged wives in Christian lands. This same Sultan of Morocco, according to the writer's traveled friend, has a custom of bringing, at his own expense, operatic troops from the great theaters of Paris, London and Vienna to entertain his ladies, who are so far from being captives that sometime ago a number of women had to be forcibly removed from the palace gates when "His Highness" decided to diminish their number—a praiseworthy decision, for the custom is a deplorable one and should be done away with in all countries, whether Mohammedan, Christian or otherwise, and the strangest part of all is that the largest of these harems are under the protection of the Christian countries of France and England.

SOLOMON OUT-SOLOMONED

The late king Kululunkorn of Siam had 10,000 wives. This fact became known first-hand to a friend of the writer, who had it from no less an authority than the eighth born of His Highness's seventeen sons. A special palace was built to house the conjugal legion. In the matter of wives, king Kululunkorn had the "lead" on Solomon by nine thousand three hundred ladies, inasmuch as Solomon is credited with but seven hundred wives, the remaining three hundred being concubines.

TWO MODERN NATIONS ARE WITHOUT CONSTITUTIONS—JAPAN AND ENGLAND

Japan is being governed by the same constitution as Prussia. The Japanese statesman, Prince Ito, was sent abroad in search of a pattern for a Japanese constitution, in an effort to appease the people who were

clamoring for some voice in the governemnt. Ito passed up the United States and all of Europe, excepting Germany. In Berlin, Bismarck showed him that by accepting the Prussian idea he could fool the Japanese people and keep the Mikado and nobility in the saddle, much as the Kaiser and the nobility ruled Deutchland (Germany). Thus Japan of today is governed by the Prussian fundamental law, while she still makes a pretense of being her enemy.

England, too, can be said to be without a constitution, as hers is largely unwritten—a most extraordinary fact. She is the only nation on earth in this predicament. However, she manages to get along on her intricate and ancient treaties, bills-of-rights and the decisions of her courts. Her colonies have a much better basis for law and order.

STYLES AND TITLES OF MONARCHS

The style, title and position of emperor is the highest place to which mortals can attain, and this is even restricted to members of royal families. The dignity of an emperor first occurred to the Romans, who made the Julian family their emperors. Both the words czar and kaiser are corruptions of Caesar. The title kaiser is recognized now as of higher degree than that of king. An emperor, like the ex-kaiser, may be king of a number of states composing his empire, but is still emperor of the whole confederation. The Czar of Russia was not only emperor, but King of Poland, Grand Duke of Finland and grand duke of a dozen other small states composing his empire. The King of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and of the British dominions beyond the seas, is, at the same time, Emperor of India. Coming to our own United States and other republics, the title of our chief execu-

tive—president—has been handed down to us from Rome.

AMERICAN GALLANTRY REWARDED WITH FEUDALISM TITLES

Out of the horrors of the great war have sprung many American nobles. For instance, the commander-in-chief of the American forces, General John Pershing, is now Sir John Pershing, K. C. B., which according to good authority makes the knighthood hereditary. Then there is General Biddle, who was supreme over the American Expeditionary Forces in England, who has also been made a "Sir" of some order of knighthood. Admiral Sims and one or two other American naval dignitaries have also received titulary favors from King George V.

Among Englishmen of any degree of note, who have absolutely rejected these feudalism titles previous to the war, may be mentioned one of no less distinction than the late William E. Gladstone. General Booth, the late respected founder of the Salvation Army, was another celebrated Briton who refused to be knighted by the late King Edward VII, saying, "I neither wish for nor could I accept any titles of nobility." Of late a member of British nobility itself has been a strenuous advocate of the discontinuance of these relics of feudalism, for such men as Guinness of the famous Irish brewing concern was made a baron, or lord, on account of his enormous wealth and the fame of his beer-porter, or stout. Lord Iveigh is the titled head of the Guinness family. Sir Thomas Lipton was made a baronet on account of his great enterprise as a grower of tea in Ceylon and as an expert in pork decoctions in the British Colonies.

AMERICAN TITLES

The official style and title of the president of the United States is, "His Excellency, the Honorable Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of North America." The American Secretary of State is always addressed at home as the "Honorable" and as "His Excellency" abroad. Ambassadors of the United States accredited to foreign governments are always addressed as "Your Excellency." The Speaker of the House is styled "The Honorable," as are all members of the Senate. American consular officials are, "The Honorable" so-and-so. Moreover, the governors of every state in the Union are addressed both in person and in correspondence as "Excellencies." Protestant and Roman Catholic bishops in the United States are addressed as "Lord Bishops." The full title of these American church dignitaries is, "The Right or Most Reverend, the Lord Archbishop." And yet this custom of titles among Americans is unconstitutional.

CORRECT NAMES OF ROYALTY

Until a few years ago, the family names of the various royal and imperial houses of Europe were quite unknown to their subject peoples. In fact, it was considered impudent and presumptuous on the part of the common people to even inquire into the family names or origin of the several ruling houses. Of late, however, especially during the late world war, there has been a tendency among some writers of the newspaper fraternity to attribute family names to certain European monarchs, which are entirely erroneous. A case in point is the ex-imperial ruler of Germany, the Kaiser William II. He is usually spoken of as one William Hohenzollern. Nothing could be

farther from the facts. The ancestors of his ex-majesty were the owners of Castle Zollern, a corruption of the ancestral name, which was Zolloring. The German people, wishing to give special honor to the family, attached the prefix hohen, meaning high, to the name. However, the family name of the ex-imperial family of Germany is Zollorin, which Prince Henry of Prussia, a brother of the emperor, readily admits.

Another instance of misnomer applies to the British royal family, which is of direct German descent. The family name of British royalty was Guelph (pronounced Welf). It was afterwards changed to Wettin, inasmuch as George I disliked his German relatives of that name. At present the name of Guelph is generally applied to the family of King George V and Queen Mary by popular writers and correspondents. All these penny-a-liners, we wish to state, are wrong. As a matter of fact, King George the Fifth has quite recently changed the family name to Windsor, after the favorite palace of Queen Victoria, his illustrious grandmother. This change was made by the reigning king to show his disgust for his imperial cousin, the Emperor William, and incidentally to warm his way into the hearts of the British people, who were showing a loathing towards everything German.

The name of the late Emperor of Russia was Nickolas Alexis Romanoff. Serbia's king bears the name of Karageorgevich (Black George).

The family name of His Most Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain, Alphonso XIII, is Bourbon. He is of the Spanish branch of a great, noble family which has reigned in several European countries. King Alphonso wears the famous crown of Castile. His full name is: Alphonso Carlos Pierre Louis Antoine

Jamie Ferdinand Phillip Egalite Henry Xavier Felix Rene Pin de Bourbon. These names are representative of his Majesty's illustrious ancestors. The title, Most Catholic, was conferred on the kings of Spain by the Holy See, in recognition of their being favorite sons of the Roman Catholic church. This title was to pass with the crown of Spain forever, no provision having been made against the possibility of its wearer turning Protestant.

King Victor Immanuel III of Italy is also a Bourbon of the Neapolitan branch. In Sweden the descendants of Marshall Bernadotte are still reigning. This family was placed on the throne of Norway and Sweden by Napoleon the first. The first king of this dynasty was an officer in Napoleon's army. The family name of King Albert of Belgium is Bras-de-fer (Iron Arm). The present chief executive of France bears the name of Raymond Poincare.

In the annals of Chinese "imperials" the Dynasty of Chow is one of the greatest of royal family names.

China, or Cathay, has had about 100 dynasties, covering several thousand years. The imperial heads of these dynasties have been among the most exclusive and wonderful mortals. The late Dowager Empress, who arose from the humble position of slave-girl to imperial dignity, was a most extraordinary person. This late imperial lady did not give her sanction to the Boxer uprising, although she bitterly resented the behavior of certain foreign missionaries.

NAPOLEON WAS NOT HIS NAME

When speaking of historical characters it seldom occurs to us that the names we know them by today bear no relation to their original styles or titles. That great French emperor, the man who came nearer to

ruling the earth than even Alexander the Great, is always referred to as "Napoleon the First," as if Napoleon were the given name. However, the "Great First Consul"—the "Terror of Europe"—"the Man of Destiny," the Emperor of France, was known to his family, relatives and friends as Samuel Bonaparte; the Christian name Samuel being his baptismal name, consequently his proper name was Samuel Bonaparte and not Napoleon, as commonly accepted.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WAS NOT HIS NAME

The Genoese navigator, popularly supposed to be the discoverer of America, was christened Christopher Colon. The name Columbus was applied to Christopher Colon very much as a mob of boys and girls in America would make fun and jeer at one of their number who had made what to them appeared a foolish boast, or had failed in some attempted undertaking. In the case of Christopher Colon, he had, as we all know, proclaimed to have discovered a new world beyond the Atlantic, which at that time seemed impossible; consequently, the word Columbus was an epithet applied to him, in much the same manner as it would be to anyone in that country, when personal or public opinion was against them.

THERE IS NO CHINESE NATION

There is no country by the name of China. This name was applied to the great land of Cathay by illiterate traders and missionaries, on account of the beautiful pottery from the clay called Cheena. Educated Chinese of the upper provinces do not recognize "China" as applied to the country by strangers, and foreigners who have lived in those parts for any

length of time never use the name China, except when referring to the delicate potteries made in the neighborhood. The late Dowager Empress was always amused at the continuous application by "foreign devils" of the name "China" to her beloved land. The official proper name of this country is Cathay.

In the days of the patriarchs, that is, in so-called Bible times, Cathay was called Sinim by the Hebrews. However, there is no "Chinese" race. The inhabitants of Cathay are Mongolian and Tartar in their origin. These inhabitants of the Celestial Empire do nearly everything contrary to the customs of the west. For instance, the men wear the skirts, the women the pants. In reading, they commence at the back of a book and read toward the front. One native meeting another, shakes hands with himself instead of with his acquaintance.

LANGUAGES OF "CHINA"

The "Chinese" do not use their written language in conversation. The Colloquial or spoken language of Cathay (China) has never been written, despite the attempts of "foreign missionary devils," as they are termed by the natives, to reduce it to writing, in order to make plain the principles of Christianity. The written language of Cathay (China) are not by any means colloquial in any part of the republic. However, the written languages of the different provinces are all expressed with the same hieroglyphics, so if a native of one province cannot make himself understood in addressing someone of a different part of the empire, he resorts to writing. The various languages of Cathay (China) are: Hakka, the province of Kuangtung; further inland, Swatow, Amoy,

Foochow, Wenchow and Ningpo; further north, the great Mandurin language (Kuanhua, or official language); Yangchow, Hankow, Peakinese and Cantonese are important languages. Mandurin, however, is the most important language of the country.

ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND AUSTRALIA ARE MISNAMED

Again we have the name Ireland where we should have Hibernia, and Scotland which is really Caledonia; proud England is really Albion, and her great crown colony, Australia, is really Austral, or Southern Asia. The author mentions these facts simply and without comment. How the original names of these several countries became changed is for his readers to "ferret" out. It can be done.

THERE IS NO RUSSIA

Then there is the case of Russia, which is really Muscovy, and whose inhabitants are Muscovites instead of Russians. How did this vast East-European country receive the name of Russia? "Ferret!"

THERE IS NO SUCH PLACE AS GERMANY

When you ask your small boy or girl, "What country have we recently been at war with?" he or she will eagerly answer, "Germany." What a gross mistake! If you will take the trouble to look in any encyclopedia you will be able to teach them the truth.

The country called Germany is known to its own people as Deutschland only. It is made up of provinces, of which Prussia is the largest. The ancient people of this country lived in tribes; then they gradually formed into kingdoms, such as Bavaria, Baden,

Prussia, Wurtemberg, Hanover, and a few others, which in about the year 1871 combined under one kingdom, and the combination was officially named Deutschland. The people there have no knowledge of the word Germany, and never hear it spoken until they come in contact with Americans, or American-speaking people.

A SO-CALLED DUTCHMAN IS NOT A GERMAN

A Hollander is referred to as a "Dutchman" in our language only, and a Deutscher is referred to as a German in our language only. The words "Dutchman," "German," "Dago" and "Mick" are all American slang. Say preferably Hollander not "Dutchman," Deutscher not "German," Italian not "Dago," and Irishman not "Mick."

The word "Hun" is a corruption of "Hungarian," and does not rightfully refer to German or Deutscher, as you will often see mis-stated in the newspapers.

THE POPES OF ROME

The titular head of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope, has not always been domiciled in the Eternal City—Rome—as is generally thought. Political upheavals and religious controversy led the pontiffs to take up their official abode in the small, windy and ill-kept town of Avignon in France. A palace was specially constructed there in 1316 by Pope John the 22nd. After Italian affairs had quieted down a little, the popes again returned to the vatican at Rome, which they have occupied continuously since.

The Vatican is the largest palace in Christendom. It contains upwards of six thousand rooms. Some of them are of surpassing splendor. Billions of dol-

lars' worth of the world's treasures are housed there, largely gifts from faithful Roman Catholics the world over. The pope and his immediate household, the princes of the Church, secretaries, and lady servants occupy about 600 rooms. The old palace at Avignon, France, is now used as a military barracks and jail, and most of its costly fixtures have been removed to Rome.

LAIRD OF SKIBO

Andrew Carnegie was known to the world as the Laird of Skibo on account of his ownership of Skibo castle and estate in Sutherland, Scotland, which he purchased about twenty years ago.

This is one of the most beautifully situated country seats in bonnie Scotland; it is wonderfully furnished inside, containing one of the best organs in the three kingdoms. Mr. Carnegie seldom occupied Skibo castle after the death of the late King Edward, who had often been the Laird's guest there. "Laird of Skibo" is not to be confused with "patented titles" bestowed by the King of England, who is also King of Scotland. It was simply a popular "title" bestowed by admiring Scotch friends, and is the Highland dialect for Lord of Skibo.

CARNEGIE WAS NOT THE ORIGINATOR OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(Facts regarding Mencius, the great Chinese philosopher, translated from the language of the Bengali, in India.)

With all due respect to the wisdom and foresight of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Scotch-American philanthropist, in the establishment of libraries through-

out the American-speaking world, he was not the first mortal to take this means of educating the masses and disseminating knowledge. The great Chinese philosopher, Mang-tsye, or Mencius, about the year 258 B.C., founded a number of village libraries in several of the great provinces of Cathay (China). In contradistinction to Mr. Carnegie, Mencius was a very poor man. Tramping from village to village, teaching his great philosophy of life, Mencius managed to collect from the ignorant, but characteristically inquisitive, natives enough of the currency of his time to start these libraries, leaving their maintenance in the hands of the scattered disciples of Confucius, much as Carnegie left to the different municipalities and library boards the task of supporting his original gifts. Mencius, however, did more in this line than the "Laird of Skibo" (Andrew Carnegie) thought of, for not only did he work to supply the buildings, but the tablets as well (books being unknown then). These tablets contained history, religion, grammar, etc., in the original languages of Cathay (China).

The philosophy of life of the great Mencius may be summed up in his own words: "To dwell in love in the wide house of the world, to stand in propriety in the great seat of the world, and to walk in righteousness in the great path of the world."

THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR IN COMMON USE IS NOT CORRECT

There are two calendars claiming the attention of the world. The first one, compiled by Julius Caesar, is known as the Julian calendar; the other is a revision of Caesar's calendar, and is known as the Gregorian calendar. The latter was the work of Pope

Gregory, a powerful Roman Catholic pope, who was noted for his devotion to Christianity, but who made many mistakes, for want of knowledge. One of the many things which he did not seem to interpret correctly was the meaning of the word Christ, a Hebrew word meaning "truth." In reckoning the Julian calendar he made a mistake of four years, which would, according to ancient history, record the birth of Jesus as four years B.C., and this ancient history is being used in our high schools. It is also noted that in revising Caesar's calendar, Pope Gregory named Sunday as the day of rest, while the Julian calendar gives Saturday as the Sabbath day. The Scriptures say that our Saviour was crucified on Friday and the next day was kept holy as the Sabbath day, but in making the revision, the Sabbath day was dropped and Sunday was given its place, being the second day after the crucifixion. Over sixty per cent of the inhabitants of the world still cling to the Julian calendar and will not acknowledge the Gregorian version.

THERE IS NO SUCH PLACE AS KLONDIKE

Of far away Alaska, where the famous Yukon river flows north, where poor men become rich over night, hundreds of interesting novels have been written, in which a great many attempts have been made to correct the misuse of the word Klondike as applied to that country by people who never were there. Why call it Klondike? The prospector from "inside," returning to the "States," may call it that to better make it understood where he came from, but back in that country it is only known to him as the Yukon.

The word "Klondike" does not mean a country nor a location. It belongs to the Indian gibberish of

Alaska and the Yukon district, and means "hello," or "rich find," or "joy," or "hearty greeting." Therefore, when the Indians found the gold on Bonanza creek in the Yukon Territory (which belongs to Canada, not Alaska), they went to the town of Forty Mile, Alaska, down the Yukon River, and exclaimed: "Klondike! Klondike!" meaning rich find, and lots of joy. One word of the Indian gibberish may cover fifty or sixty different meanings. "Chee-cha-ko" means greenhorn, newcomer, fool, softy and any number of similar appellations. "Skookum" means strong, healthy, hearty, good looking, etc. A grunt from an Indian in that country expresses an entire vocabulary. It all depends upon the way he grunts. So when the Indians used the word Klondike in the Yukon Territory, they did not mean to name this section Klondike, but simply gave expression to their joy over a rich find. The proper name of the place is Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada. If one were to send a letter to Klondike, it would be returned for proper address. Although there is a very small river or creek named Klondike, no town or section bears that name. No gold was ever taken out of the Klondike River, nor any mining done on that creek, for there was not enough of the yellow metal to warrant it. Such a district as Klondike is not shown on any United States government map nor on any Canadian map; but it does appear on our school geography, which is not authentic. Now, in the first place, there is no Klondike; and in the second, the place referred to as Klondike is not in Alaska, but in Canada.

ESKIMO RELIGION

The native religion of the Alaskan Eskimo is reincarnation through birth. They believe that the spirit

of some of their ancestors return in their children, therefore their children are never punished for fear they are wronging some deceased relative. Part of their religion is to beat a tom-tom until the fierce wind stops blowing, and if they beat it long enough it eventually stops through natural causes, then they give the credit to the Great Spirit, and their effort.

RELIGION OF MOHAMMED—WAS MOHAMMED THE FOUNDER?

Mohammed was not the originator of the great religious system bearing his name, although a great many of the prophet's ideas were later embodied in the Koran, or Bible of Islam. A poem by the famous Persian poet, Tarafa, of the tribe of Bakr, suggested the moral, political and religious philosophy which, through the untiring zeal of Mohammed, now bears his name. But one, Omar Al-Khattab, the second of the Mohammedan Caliphs, who was familiar with and an authority on the poem—foundation of the religion of Islam—can be said to be the real originator of Moslemism.

The poem in question is one of the golden poems said to be still hanging in the Ka'ba, at Mecca, Arabia, the Holy City of the Mohammedan world. Omar reigned over Islam and saw Mohammedanism transformed from a religious to an imperial power. It was under Omar that we see the Islamic conquest of Syria and of Palestine, of Egypt and the Persians at Nehamend. Omar was assassinated by a Persian slave in 644, leaving no successor, but only a body of six Nuhajirum, who selected a new Caliph. Omar was much wiser and more far-sighted than Mohammed ever dreamed of being. It was he who built the great

Mosque of Omar, in Jerusalem, which contains the great rock worshipped by the Mohammedans as the scene of the prophet's (Mohammed) assent to heaven. This same rock is also regarded by the Jews as the site of the supposed sacrifice of Isaac.

Western writers, together with a few jealous, non-Islamic easterners, have been at pains to prove the great Mohammed as the real founder of the religious system bearing his name. But these claims are not borne out by the facts as related by the (alleged) prophet's contemporaries. Many of the most enlightened and best educated men and women in the Mohammedan lands of today claim Omar as the founder of their faith. Indeed, according to the Parsees, Mohammed was not even the so-called prophet's name. In the "*Histoire des Arabes*," p. 90, 1912, the author claims that Mohammed's name remains unknown, or possibly was Kutham. Again, there is no record whatever of the birth of Mohammed. The traditional date, 570 A.D., could not be correct, as equally good authority connects his birth with "The Year of the Elephant." As far as the name and birth of Mohammed are concerned, we are as much at sea as we are with respect to the name and date of birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Finally, to explode an error we have often heard expressed, Mohammedanism was not founded to offset the beliefs of the Jews, as this race at the time were confined to other geographical regions and were practically savage compared with the Islamic peoples. Some Hindoos say that the so-called Mohammed was a renegade fugitive Jew, who was never known to wash his face, something the Jews of that time considered unnecessary. The old-fashioned Jews of Jerusalem and the swarming Jews

in the Ghettos of Russian cities seldom wash, claiming that Mohammed, "the good old Jew," taught the people of his time that "water was wet" and shouldn't be indulged in too frequently by good Hebrews.

THE JEWS DID NOT CRUCIFY JESUS

The Roman soldiers, by order of Pontius Pilate, were forced to perform this act. The Jews had been conquered by the Romans, and Jesus was supposed to be their leader. Aside from the Saviour himself there was not a Jew present at the crucifixion. The authority for this is based on ancient history, Bible of Moses, the Holy Bible, and the History of Jerusalem, by Josephus.

Why tell your children there is a Santa Claus, and in the same connection tell them the Story of the Cross, for when they find out that there is no Santa Claus won't they be apt to also doubt the Story of the Cross?

BUDDHA WAS NOT AN IDOL

The word Buddha does not signify an idol, but is derived from the Pali (Chinese) word "boodho," meaning enlightened, wise, and may be applied to any great teacher. There were many such before the appearance of Guatama, to whom we apply the name. The tradition is that when no Buddha is on earth, true religion decays, but is revived when a new Buddha arises. The Buddha who is generally referred to under that name was a distinguished prince of Aryan descent, the son of a king of the class of the Guantenamas, ruling an old Hindu kingdom at the foot of the Nepaulese mountains, some one hundred miles north of Benares. As an Aryan, the prince was

taught to look with contempt upon the Turanian inhabitants and to keep his caste pure, but Buddha, with his wide-reaching sympathies, broke through this restraint and preached the equality of races. He is supposed to have been born B.C. 622, to have acquired the title Buddha in 580, and to have died in 543. Though deified by his admiring followers, he himself never claimed divine honors. Buddhism was dominant in India for one thousand years, but when it became corrupt, Brahminism prevailed over it and almost extinguished it on the Indian continent, although it continues to predominate in Ceylon, Thibet and Burmah.

MORMON IS NOT A RELIGION

Mormon means the head of a household. It is a Turkish word meaning master of his house, and is applicable whether the man has one wife, many wives, or none at all. If he is the master of his home he is the mormon of his household.

The word mormon is also used by the semi-savage people on the vast, empty stretches of Northern Australia. The word means flesh food, such as beef, mutton or even fish, in the language of these wild Australian aborigines. The natives of Central Borneo also use this word in referring to their widows.

BRIGHAM YOUNG WAS THE GREATEST COLONIZER

Brigham Young was the greatest colonizer in the world. He not only placed under cultivation more land than any other colonizer, but he civilized more Indians, and what is most remarkable he accomplished this without bloodshed. He had twenty-one wives. The statement that he had forty-two is not correct.

DAYS OF WEEKS AND MONTHS HAVE PAGAN NAMES

It is a fact worthy of contemplation that not a day in the week nor a month in the year bears a Christian name. Sunday is named for the sun god; Monday for the moon; Saturday for Saturn, and so on. As to the monthly divisions of the solar year, July and August are named after the Roman emperors of those names, the remaining months being named after various pre-Christian gods and Roman mathematical divisions. Moreover, not an orb in the firmament bears a Christian name. The Sun, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Venus and Neptune were named by our pagan ancestors, and still remain so named.

ILLEGAL MARRIAGES

A white person married to an Indian, a Japanese, a Chinaman or a negro, under the laws of California, would not be recognized as husband and wife, but the United States and Japanese governments have not as yet arrived at a decision as to whether or not a Japanese can be classed as a Mongolian.

DR. OSLER DID NOT MAKE THE STATEMENT THAT MEN SHOULD BE CHLOROFORMED AT THE AGE OF SIXTY

A letter received from the John Hopkins University, May 16th, 1919, reads as follows:

"The statement that Dr. Osler recommended the chloroforming of everyone at the age of sixty is incorrect, and affords an excellent example of the harm done by careless newspaper reporting and the impossibility of correcting errors thus promulgated.

I remember exactly the circumstances under which the supposed remarks were made. On February 22, 1904, Dr. Osler made the chief address at the commemoration day exercises of the John Hopkins University and dealt particularly with university training. Among other things, he stated that the average man in a university would show what he could do before the age of forty, and that a man who had reached that age without doing good work was extremely unlikely to do better in the future. Furthermore, he said that while he was not prepared to endorse the recommendation of Trollope, that all men reaching the age of sixty should be chloroformed, he did hold that men who had reached that age without accomplishing results would be extremely unlikely to do so later.

Dr. Osler at that time was professor of medicine in the Johns Hopkins University, which he left to become regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford in 1905. Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. Whitridge Williams, Dean."

The most highly educated people we have are forced out of positions and very often out of our country by lying, ignorant newspaper reporters. Dr. Osler, without a doubt, was one of the best instructors in medicine that America ever had. After a varied educational career at Trinity University, Toronto, Canada, the university colleges of London, Berlin and Vienna, he became professor of physiology and pathology at McGill University, Montreal, and later, as stated above, he was appointed professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, leaving this country in 1905 for England to become regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford.

The late Dr. Osler took up permanent British citizenship. In this way he escaped the stigma caused in America by the deliberate error in the reporting of this now famous address. Very likely the newspaper reporter had never heard of Anthony Trollope whom Osler said he did not agree with. Possibly others have not, therefore we present a brief history of this irrational man.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

Anthony Trollope was one of the most curious as well as romantic characters in literature, travel and romance. Born in England, his early days were marked by an incessant struggle against poverty. While he was yet young his ambitious and clever mother brought him to the United States, where together they opened a little fancy-goods shop in Cincinnati. During Mrs. Trollope's enterprise in the American city she wrote a book on the "Domestic Manners of the Americans," which so incensed the American people that she was obliged to return to England. Anthony was then given a position as postal clerk in a remote part of Ireland, with a very small salary. This, however, did not satisfy the ambitions and romantic Anthony, for he always held a grievance against his father who, in spite of his good education for that time, had made a conspicuous failure so far as accumulating money was concerned; so he set about advocating the destruction of all humans of his father's age and status of material unprosperity. According to good authority, Trollope would wander through the crowded market-villages of Banagher and Clonmel, stopping here and there among the barterers for the purpose of discussing his distorted

"Malthusianism" with those whom he judged by personal appearance to be fit subjects for summary obliteration. From Ireland, Anthony was sent on post-office business to the West Indies, and afterwards on a similar errand to Egypt. In both foreign lands he continued to advocate his pet theory that all humans after a certain age should be destroyed. Anthony Trollope, claiming to be a Malthusian, distorted the teachings of Malthus.

THE APOCRYPHA

The word Apocrypha, which is associated in the minds of most of us with certain books of the Old Testament, fourteen in number, which are referred to in the thirty-nine articles of the English Church as "read for example of life and instruction of manners, but not to establish any doctrine," really means things hidden or concealed. It is probably because the date and authorship of these books are unknown that they were so named. The Old Testament Apocrypha (there is also a New Testament Apocrypha) was written during the last two centuries B.C., and the Jews never accorded them any place in the Old Testament canon, but they were inserted in the Septuagint (Gr. trans. of the Hebrew of Old Testament), made by seventy select translators and thence passed to the Latin Vulgate. Portions of them are still appointed to be read in church on days other than Sunday. It is interesting to know that this word, derived from the Greek "apo"—from—and "kryptein"—to bite—is not only applied to these books of the Old and New Testaments, but to any fabulous or untrustworthy story, or to writings suitable for the initiated only, or which are spurious. The Apocrypha

was eliminated from our English Bible in about 1700 by Pope Gregory.

MEANING OF THE WORD ORTHODOX

Orthodox does not necessarily refer to Christianity. To be orthodox, a person need not be a follower of any particular faith or creed, but if he has one belief, one idea, and follows it straight ahead with no variation he is orthodox. For instance, if a man is always a Republican without variation he is an orthodox Republican, but if he is a Republican one time, Democrat another, Prohibition another, he becomes heterodox. Likewise heterodox has no special reference to any creed or opposition thereto. A man may be changeable in doctrines along any line of subjects taught and be heterodox.

MEANING OF THE WORD BIBLE

A bible is a combination under one cover of any number of books on any subject, written by various men. The word bible means books—(from the Ecclesiastical Greek *biblis*, a diminutive of *bibles*, signifying the inner bark of the papyrus). Thus, a bible meant originally any book made of papyrus paper, and not necessarily the word of God. The latter should rightfully be called the Holy Bible at all times. There are over fifty-two bibles, such as the King James Bible, the Roman Catholic Bible, the Koran, the Book of Smith, Mrs. Eddy's Science and Health, and many others. None of these, however, claim to take the place of the Holy Bible, but are written, according to their theories, as explanations thereof.

A MARTYR

A martyr is one who suffers for his belief. In other words, he is a "witness" to the truth. The word is of Greek derivation, meaning "witness," so in case one is subpoenaed as a witness he would rightfully be called a martyr.

KING JAMES' VERSION OF THE HOLY BIBLE IS NOT COMPLETE

The King James' version of the Holy Bible is not a true one, because he not only omitted the Apocrypha, but incorporated therein an excuse for divorce, besides many other mistakes, which are excused by the fluent tongues of ministers.

VARYING MEANINGS OF THE WORD CATHOLIC

There are two distinct definitions of the word catholic. Used as an adjective, it means universal, liberal; as a noun, it refers to a person who accepts the creeds which are believed in common by all Christian churches, including the Roman and Greek Catholic churches. However, the Roman Catholics have an entirely different form of worship, and to correctly refer to this particular church one should specify the Roman Catholic Church.

RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME

Religion and Christianity are not always the same. A man may have a religion that does not in any way embrace Christianity. He may never be connected with any Christian belief, and yet his religion may be to do right by his fellow man; to be honest and contribute his money to the poor; or, for example,

he may be a member of some, or all, of the secret orders, which might constitute his religion. In other words, religion is the predominating idea or thought which governs a man's life.

THE WORD DEMOCRACY DOES NOT MEAN FREEDOM

The authentic meaning of democracy is a government ruled by the people within a republic, and when that government is no longer ruled by the people it ceases to be a democracy, but becomes at once a monarchy.

A CANDIDATE DOES NOT MEAN A POLITICIAN

The original meaning of the word candidate is lost sight of by the politician of today. Literally it means white and shining, from the Latin candidus (white), and candere (to shine). Those seeking office in ancient Rome vested themselves in white togas, presumably a symbol of the purity of their intentions.

LAWBREAKERS

All persons who take the law into their own hands are outlaws. All those using or twisting laws to profit thereby personally are outlaws. Also judges who misconstrue the law's import for ulterior motives are, likewise, lawbreakers.

THE LAW DOES NOT EXCUSE IGNORANCE— THERE IS NO SUCH CODE

There is no code in law such as is often quoted, "The law does not excuse ignorance," but in 21 Cyclo-pedia of Law and Procedure, 1726, it reads as follows: "Ignorantia Juris Non Excusat." A maxim meaning

is "Ignorance of the law is no excuse." At the same time, law does excuse ignorance, but does not excuse ignorance of the law.

ERRORS IN DICTIONARIES

A dictionary should be written by various men with actual knowledge on different subjects, then such errors as a mountain ibex pictured as a mountain sheep, a Jew described as an infidel, a kid described as a young child, and other similar errors, would not appear in our modern dictionaries.

IT WAS NOT A WHALE THAT SWALLOWED JONAH

There is no real reason to draw the conclusion that the fish that swallowed Jonah was a whale, because in the second chapter of the book of Jonah it merely says that the Lord prepared a large fish to perform that office. It is not at all reasonable to assume that it was a whale, for zoology tells us that the whale's throat is only three inches in diameter.

THE COMPASS DOES NOT POINT NORTH

While the compass is an instrument to determine direction, yet it does not point north. It points to the magnetic pole, which is 2,000 miles from north, either east or west, according to location, and changes from year to year. Surveyors say that in the United States a compass points the nearest to north in the states of Ohio and Kentucky.

NATIVE RED MEN OF UNITED STATES ARE NOT INDIANS

The name of Indian was applied by Christopher Columbus, because when he landed at San Salvador

Island he there discovered swarthy red men who resembled Hindus. Taking it for granted that he had landed in India, he naturally called the natives Indian. In later years, it having been proved that he was mistaken in his location, the error was corrected, but through neglect the application of the word Indian to American red men was never corrected. Indians are natives of India only.

SITTING BULL WAS NOT AN INDIAN CHIEF

Sitting Bull, who is often given the title of Indian chief, which is generally accepted as a historical fact, was really a medicine man. The chief's toga was placed upon his brow by the American soldiers, for they recognized him as the voluntary leader of his tribe, upon the sudden death of the chief, who was killed in action.

STEFANSSON IS NOT THE REAL DISCOVERER OF THE BLONDE ESKIMO

Stefansson is not the real discoverer of the blonde Eskimo. They were discovered and talked of hundreds of years before Stefansson was known. There were even books and writings on these people previous to his declaration of discovery.

INGERSOLL WAS NOT AN INFIDEL

Colonel Robert Ingersoll, better known as "Bob" Ingersoll, was one of the most brilliant men of our day. Like all truly great people, he has been accused of saying things which he never even thought of. Ingersoll has been accused of being an infidel, which is very, very far indeed from true. This accusation was made by smaller men who were in no way the equal of "Bob" in intellectual powers.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DID NOT DISCOVER AMERICA

The real discoverer of America is still in doubt in the minds of many. The Scandinavians claim that Eric the Red discovered this continent, and sent a report of the fact to Sweden long before the famous voyage of Columbus in 1492. As far as Columbus is concerned, he never knew that he had been credited with making any such discovery, for when he landed at San Salvador, in the West Indies, he was under the impression that he had reached Asia, the goal of his dreams, and he died not knowing there was such a place as America. The only evidence that Amerigo Vespucci, for whom America was named, made the famous discovery is that he proclaimed himself the discoverer, and if the historical dates are correct, then he first landed on American soil somewhat earlier than the claim of Columbus to the discovery of a new route to India. However, Columbus did prove that the earth is round. Furthermore, he discovered tobacco and introduced it into Spain, where it eventually caused the downfall of this one-time powerful nation.

HOWE DID NOT INVENT A SEWING MACHINE

Howe did not invent a sewing machine, but he did invent a sewing machine needle by putting the eye next the point. For this reason his name became famous and was leased by a company to be stenciled on a sewing machine. The first one made in the United States was invented by Rev. John A. Dodge, of Vermont. Mr. Dodge never applied for a patent nor attempted to manufacture any more machines, for lack of time, and also because of bitter opposition of the journeymen tailors, who denounced the ma-

chine as an invasion of their labor rights and an invention of the devil. The first patent granted in America on a sewing machine was to a man named Lye in 1826, but it is not probable that it contained any useful features, as it was never heard of again. The first practical and commercially successful sewing machines were produced simultaneously in the years 1850-1852 by Isaac M. Singer, Allen B. Wilson, Grover & Baker, and Wilcox & Gibbs.

SUPERSTITIONS IN REGARD TO WEATHER

Weather is the subject of a diversity of absurd theories, among which may be ranked first the idea that the government forecasters can predict its changes. There is a belief, or superstition, that mild winters follow a mild December—an unpleasant augury, if true. There are some who will not give our universe any credit for the natural causes of rain. Certain gases curdle certain moistures, which descend in drops that we call rain, and there is nothing phenomenal about it, just a natural process.

SENSATIONAL HOLD-UP FALLACIES

When we read of a hold-up the account sometimes sets forth that the victim "found himself suddenly looking into the muzzle of a forty-four." "A big forty-four" is a phrase that lends tremendous melodramatic interest to any kind of a story. It would be especially important, if true; but the chances are that there's not a hold-up man who would venture outside in an unlighted street with such a revolver in his hip pocket and risk walking half-way down the block.

A .44-calibre revolver, six-shot, and with the short-

est type of barrel, measures fully ten inches in length, with a cylinder almost two inches in diameter. On the scale, empty, it weighs two pounds and nine ounces. Six cartridges of .44-calibre bring the weight close to two pounds and eleven ounces, net.

There isn't a regulation tailored hip pocket which would support such a weapon without constant danger of its toppling out on the sidewalk. Ordinarily a man, respectable or otherwise, is satisfied with a .32-caliber weapon. Occasionally he may buy a .38.

THERE ARE NO MOGUL ENGINES IN PRACTICAL USE

Once upon a time the Mogul type of locomotive was used largely in freight traffic. It stood in the public mind for all that was big and powerful and fast and dramatic. So fixed in the public mind is the old "Mogul" that nowadays when two limited trains with the fast Atlantic type locomotive come together head-on "the giant Moguls were reduced to scrap," is the way the public wants it expressed.

One of the greatest bits of misinformation now nursed regarding the locomotive is that in building the modern railway engine to such height and size the builders are acting upon a new discovery of a new principle.

"You know," says the average distributor of this "fact," "the designer once thought that the nearer the rails the locomotive was the closer it would cling to the track. Suddenly somebody woke up to the fact that the bigger and heavier they were built the closer they clung to the rails. That's why some of these modern engines have drive wheels seven feet in diameter."

But don't tell a railroad man that, unless you want to earn his contempt. Locomotives have grown in size and weight in order that steam power sufficient to modern needs could be generated in their boilers. They had to keep within certain bounds as to width because of the distances already established between parallel lines of rails, width of bridges and so forth.

A CHIFFONIER IS NOT NECESSARILY AN ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

A chiffonier, to be strictly correct, is a scavenger or street cleaner. The word itself is, of course, French, and is derived from chiffon, which means a piece of rag or flimsy cloth, and not the fine fabric with which we are familiar. Scavengers of Paris formerly cleaned the streets and gutters with rags supplied by the city, and they were called chiffoniers. How the word chiffonier came to be used to denote an article of furniture is that it was used for a catch-all for rags and different small articles not in use about the house. Therefore, it would be a household scavenger. However, in order to disguise the name scavenger, which sounds unpleasant, we have borrowed from the French the word chiffonier and applied it to an article of furniture.

A HOGSHEAD IS NOT A LARGE BARREL

A hogshead is not a large barrel, but a stein made in England, of Sussex or Bellevue pottery, to represent a hog. When it is empty it balances so to stand on all four feet, but when filled it stands upright, and one drinks from its head, hence it is called a hogshead. But like many other things I will mention here, the late compilers of the dictionary, whose prestige

and power were far beyond their general knowledge of the meanings of certain words, applied the word hogshead to a large barrel. Dr. Johnson said of his famous dictionary, completed in 1755, "That many terms of art and manufacture are omitted must be frankly acknowledged, but I could not visit caverns to learn the miner's language, nor take a voyage to perfect my skill in the dialect of navigation, nor visit the warehouses of merchants and shops of artificers to gain the names of wares, tools and operations."

LEAD PENCILS ARE NOT LEAD PENCILS

There are no real lead pencils in common use. It has been about three hundred years since lead was used in ordinary pencils. The use of the mineral lead as a substance with which to make a more or less black mark is entirely out of use. It was customary to attach a piece of lead to the end of a slender piece of ivory, and call it a lead pencil. In order to make a more simple one, a strip of sheet lead, cut thin like a shoestring and rolled with the sole of a shoe to make it round, answered the purpose; then followed the casing of "cedar" and the so-called "lead" pencil of today. This modern pencil has not a vestige of real lead in its make-up, but is composed of a consolidation under great pressure of the mineral plumbago (graphite), which makes a more distinct mark than lead.

DIAMONDS ARE NOT INDESTRUCTIBLE

Diamonds will wear out, although to most people they are the symbol of indestructibility. They cut glass, to be sure, but they are worn down themselves in the process. An engagement ring will often be

nicked around the edges by the time the wearer is a bride. A small chip diamond, such as is required to put in phonographs, is not worth over twenty-five cents in actual value.

STEAM IS NOT STEAM

When water is subjected to the action of heat it is converted into invisible gas. The white cloud that arises from boiling water, which we call steam, is not steam, but a vapor composed of minute particles of water suspended in the air, and formed by the condensation of the true steam gas coming in contact with the cool air, but when confined, before coming in contact with either moisture or air, it is a gas, a most powerful explosive when ignited.

Steam pressure will not explode a boiler. It will open up a weak place and gradually escape. Gas causes the explosion, and this gas is generated by putting water into a hot, dry boiler.

CINDERELLA'S SLIPPERS

Cinderella is said to have worn glass slippers to the famous ball at which she made her reputation. In the old Eastern version she wore fur slippers. The French translated it "*pantoufle en vair*," and the English translators mistook it for "*pantoufle en verre*" (glass), which is pronounced the same. The English have mistaken a great many other words and use them in improper places.

THE CAR OF JUGGERNAUT

The Festival of Juggernaut, one of the several Hindoo methods of honoring or worshipping their god Vishnu, is not the barbaric, blood-thirsty thing we

have been lead to believe it. On the contrary, it is a beautiful ceremony, as religious ceremonies go, and the famous car of Juggernaut is simply symbolical of the Deity. The devotees of Vishnu do not throw themselves beneath the ponderous wheels of Juggernaut in self-immolation. They content themselves with low obeisance as the strange vehicle passes along.

SNAKES IN IRELAND

The story of St. Patrick having driven the snakes out of Ireland is a fanciful one—an old-wives' fable. The only fauna ever known to exist in Ireland are those which the Irish, like ourselves, have domesticated—the horse, donkey, common dog, rabbits, hares and ferrets. Reptiles have never existed there; and the only birds-of-prey ever known to have their habitat on the green island were a few eagles; these were in the neighborhood of the famous lakes of Killarney. To talk of snakes not being able to live in Ireland because of their alleged banishment by St. Patrick is mere humbug. Professional snake charmers have performed in Irish cities times without number in the last fifty years, and there is no instance on record of their reptilian charges having succumbed on their hands.

If this snake-story is true, St. Patrick must have visited Alaska and the Yukon Territory, as well as other far and wide parts of the globe. where reptiles have never existed.

The world is full of delusions, entirely apart from the great mass of superstitions, which in themselves form a class. Superstition is blind belief—belief in a thing without the shadow of proof or foundation.

If you knew a thing for absolute certainty, you would not say "I believe it is so," but would say with surety "It is so."

THE HEART IS NOT ON THE LEFT SIDE

If we ask ten averagely well-informed persons in turn to locate their hearts, at least nine of them—and probably all of them—will place their hands well around on the left side, or on the left breast up towards the shoulder. Of course every one knows that the heart is on the left side! But it just happens that it is not. The most muscular chamber, the left ventricle, is on the left side of the heart, and the largest artery, the aorta, arches over to the left, the point being directed toward the left; and these conditions make the beating of the heart more readily felt on the left side. Nevertheless, should we carefully slice ourselves directly through the center of the breastbone a larger portion of the heart would go out with the right side than with the left.

WE DO WEIGH MORE AFTER EATING

We often hear the expression, "Isn't it strange that a person weighs no more after a hearty meal than before?" It would be strange, indeed, if it were true; but it isn't. If one eats two pounds of dinner, he will, immediately thereafter, weigh very nearly two pounds more than he did just before, as any good scale will show. The reason that one would not weigh exactly two pounds more is that the body is constantly losing weight, whether one is eating or not, by perspiration and by the moisture and dioxide gas exhaled from the lungs. A person of average weight will lose about two pounds in a Turkish bath.

A WOMAN DOES NOT HAVE MORE RIBS THAN A MAN

Very frequently do we hear the assertion that woman has one more—or, rather, that man has one less—rib than woman, this being based upon the Biblical account of the creation of Adam and Eve. An examination of a normal skeleton will convince anyone of this error. Both men and women are duly provided with twelve pairs of ribs.

A PERSON IS TALLER IN THE MORNING

The very wise among us smile knowingly when some one offers the “foolish” assertion that a person is taller in the morning than in the evening. But just try it. Between the twenty-four vertebrae of the backbone are little disks of cartilage, which during the course of the day are considerably compressed by the weight of the body, then expanding again when the body is in a recumbent position. In the case of a heavy man of good average height, the difference in his height at morning and evening is generally about half an inch.

RESULT OF BATHING WHEN WARM

We often hear the caution, “Don’t go into the water until you have become cooler!” this being specially directed to swimmers and bathers. The kindly disposed who utter this caution are not quite sure just what would happen if, when heated, one should plunge into the stream or surf, but they feel that it would be something very dreadful, in which they disagree with the expert advice: “Bathe when the body is warm, provided no time is lost in getting into the

water. Avoid bathing when the body is cooling after perspiration."

THE TRUTH ABOUT FALLING

When some unfortunate workman falls from a great height there is always someone to say: "Well, he probably didn't feel it when he struck." There is little or no basis for this belief (superstition) that a person is dead or unconscious at the end of a long fall. Surviving jumpers from Brooklyn bridge prove this, and that a person retains consciousness is shown by the case of the English boy who fell down a pit some 250 feet and shouted three times on the way down. One theory is that a person falling would not be able to breathe, but a train at sixty miles an hour is moving faster than one would move falling 100 feet or so, and no one pretends that a person would die of suffocation if he puts his head out of a train window. Furthermore, one could fall from the top of a very lofty building, like the Singer structure in New York, in six seconds, whereas one can hold his breath for many times that space of time.

CATS DO NOT SUCK BABIES' BREATH

That cats inhale the breath out of sleeping babies is an old absurdity that will not die. The human race is intelligent enough in this day and generation to understand electric lights and the wireless, airplanes and automobiles; but one occasionally hears someone tell of a baby who has been killed by a cat in the above-mentioned manner. The fact is, the cat, liking a warm place to lie, has jumped into the baby's bed and suffocated the occupant by lying on it. The aver-

age infant is less in weight than the average cat and is scarcely able to drive a cat away.

TEETH DO NOT BLEED

When we speak of teeth bleeding we really mean that the gums are bleeding.

THERE IS NO DEATH AGONY

There is no such thing as a death agony. People sometimes die in agony, but the agony is a cause or a coincident, not a result.

ANIMALS' TEETH ARE NOT POISONOUS

Nails and teeth of animals are not in themselves poisonous. A scratch or bite from a dog or cat may prove poisonous, but only because some impurity or germ has been deposited in the ugly wound that results, but when a serpent bites it discharges a special poison, which is secreted in glands.

QUININE IS AN ANTIDOTE FOR WHISKEY

Whiskey and quinine will not act on the human system at the same time. Either the one or the other will predominate, rendering the other useless. The remedy is as much out of date as bleeding.

FISH IS NOT A BRAIN FOOD

An assertion that we hear repeatedly given forth with great solemnity is "Fish is a brain food." There is, however, no foundation whatever for the belief (superstition) that fish contains any particular elements that adapt them especially as food for the brain, or as a support for mental effort. The value of fish as food to persons engaged in mental labor is

found in the fact that it does not contain large quantities of substances that demand much physical exercise or exertion for their assimilation. As the brain-worker is seldom physically active, the value of fish as food for him is due to what is not contained in the fish.

DRIED CODFISH IS NOT CODFISH

Codfish has so long been a scarce sea food that there has not been enough to supply the demand, so that hake and haddock, which are very similar in appearance and taste, have to a large extent taken its place, as well as its name. This same circumstance applies to canned tuna. When tuna becomes scarce, any old fish in cans may be sold under that name.

SALT IS NOT SALT AT ALL

Your salt-cellar really contains chloride of sodium instead of the real salt. Except in some parts of the European continent, where rock salt is still used and whittled off the lump as it is needed, it has been entirely supplanted by chloride of sodium extracted from the salt water.

PEPSIN IS NOT A FLAVOR

Pepsin is made from the stomach lining of hogs, sheep and calves. When dried and pulverized it forms a yellowish white powder, which, in combination with proteoses, is used as a digestive. Beeman was the first to use it in chewing gum, and often when one asks for pepsin gum the clerk is under the impression that peppermint gum is referred to.

HAM IS NOT HAM AT ALL

Ham does not rightfully refer to meat, but derives its name from the crook or bend in the hog's hind leg. The word really refers to the "ham" or joint in the bone.

SWEET OIL IS NOT SWEET OIL

Sweet oil really is the oil extracted from olives, commonly known as olive oil. Very often druggists have supplied linseed oil where sweet oil is ordered, but recently they have received instructions from the federal government not to sell any other but olive oil where sweet oil is called for.

THERE ARE NO SWEET POTATOES

A sweet potato, by proper name, does not exist. What we of the United States are pleased to call the sweet potato is none other than the yam of the Pyrenees. The first of the kind were brought to the United States by some returning travelers. However, the yam of the Pyrenees—our so-called sweet potato—must not be confused with the true yam, which is strictly a product of the peculiar soil of tropical Asia and Africa, where it grows in great abundance and to great perfection.

IRISH POTATOES ARE NOT IRISH POTATOES

Long before its advent in European countries, the potato was a staple food in America. It was probably indigenous from Chili to Mexico. In 1563 it was carried from Virginia to Ireland by Sir John Hawkins. From Peru it was taken to Spain, and thence to the Netherlands and Burgundy and other European points early in the sixteenth century. Its importance as a

vegetable was not recognized, however, until 1856, when Sir Walter Raleigh, of Youghal, County Cork, Ireland, instructed his gardener to plant them in his kitchen garden, telling him they were a fine fruit from America. Through the exertions of Raleigh the potato was developed in quality and popularity as a food to such an extent in Ireland that its cultivation spread into England, where it became known as the "Irish potato." The potato mentioned by early English writers before the seventeenth century was the same as the Spanish batata, or potato, which was first discovered in Colombia, South America, growing on the Andes mountains, where they can still be found growing wild. Therefore, they are an American (Spanish) potato, not Irish.

OPIUM IS NOT A PRODUCT OF CHINA

Opium, the earliest drug used by dissatisfied man to deaden his nerves and lull his mind to forgetfulness and pleasant imagination, is not, as is commonly supposed, an indigenous product of China. In reality, its original home is in Southern Europe. It was well known to the Greeks about the time of Dioscorides, A.D. 77. The use of the drug was later introduced into India by the great Mogul, first as a means of adding to his wealth, and secondly to lull his three hundred million subjects into abject submission and lethargy—a lethargy that rendered them impotent to overthrow him or to even question his rule. This Mogul emperor caused the spread of the opium habit to Persia and even to Turkey. Despite the Christian missionary efforts of English churchmen, it must be said, to the everlasting disgrace of English commerce, that, through its dastardly instrumentality, this dread

opium drug was more firmly rooted in the habits of the Chinese and Hindoo. It may surprise Christian Americans to know that large areas of certain Mexican states are used for extensive opium-poppy propagation. The cultivation is done by imported Oriental coolie labor, and American gamblers, smugglers, discredited business men, ex-politicians and procurers of the underworld buy up the output and distribute it among their agents on the United States side, reaping an enormous profit from the nefarious traffic.

OPIUM DOES NOT PRODUCE SLEEP

Some habitual users of opium become drowsy, but none sleep under the influence of this narcotic. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred opium has a stimulating influence on its victims, who are so far from sleepiness that they may be spoken of as unbearably wide awake. The soothing effects of the dread drug are uncommon enough to be remarkable, in spite of the common opinion that opium is taken as a sleeping-draught. Those who smoke opium, a la Chinese, do so for its strange, marvelous ability to work the imaginative faculty to the limit. The Chinese opium-den smoker is transported, through an aromatically poisoned imagination, to ravishing realms of fanciful imagery. But he is far from sleep; ask him any question and he will answer you intelligently enough, if you and he are not strangers, and he is not suspicious of you. Opium eaters differ from opium smokers in that they keep walking around, attending to business, religious or domestic duties. This deadly opium habit is formed by Orientals in their efforts to prevent disease, while Europeans and Americans usually resort to the king of drugs when the disease is already upon

them. The habit is contracted either way. How opium became known as a sleep-inducer we are at a loss to understand, unless those foreigners who were first granted an entrance to an Oriental opium den, upon seeing the reclining position of the addicts, concluded that they were either in a stupor or asleep. An opium fiend will never resort to the opium pipe and lamp in search of sleep or even rest. A large cup of cocoatina, made from the outer crust of the cocoanut shell, has more effect in encouraging sleep than opium ever had, and the fiend is well aware of this fact. Indeed, an ordinary cup of hot water—a mild opiate in itself—has been known to lull thousands into more of a narcotic sleep than could possibly be induced by any amount of opium. Beer—common bar beer—is more of a sleeping draught than opium. Our great mistake is in supposing that the drug habit is peculiar to China or any other part of the Orient. There is, sad to relate, just as irresistible a craving for drugs in America as there ever was in Asia. Where is the American city or town without its “dope” colony? Where is the American underworld clique without its “dope” ring; and how long would our American corner drug-store exist without its narcotic and patent-medicine customers? Lately, the Chinese government has, by edict and otherwise, declared opium “taboo”; and the teeming millions of India are at this moment working like Trojans to overthrow the monster. What, then, are we Christian Americans going to do about “dope”? We have, through legislation, given King Alcohol his walking ticket. Is it wise, then, to permit “Kaiser” Dope to remain?

KNIGHTED BEEF

Who has heard of ennobled beef? Everybody. But few have suspected the origin of its distinction, which happened in this wise:

Henry VII of England had returned ravenously hungry from a hunt in Windsor Great Park. In the state dining room a great feast was prepared for his majesty and his guests. The piece de resistance was a great loin of beef. The luscious roast was so enjoyed by the old king that, calling a servitor who stood close to the royal person, and demanding that a sword be forthwith brought in, Henry touched the meat with the sword-tip, saying, "Henceforth be Sir Loin." Hence the origin of our sirloin steak.

ABOUT THE WORD AND PLACE HELL

There is no equivalent in the "Chinese" language for the Christian term "hell," nor in Hindoo, either. They have no knowledge or history of any such place.

The Christian word hell is of comparatively modern origin. The word was invented, together with the place it is supposed to name, in an effort to frighten the ignorant into abject subjection and obedience to the will of organized religion. The only word in the Christian Bible that could be construed to mean "hell" is hades. Josephus says that hades is a "place in the bowels of the earth into which the light of this world does not enter." Modern Christians, however, who have a common-sense grasp of the plain facts of the universe have discarded this "hellish" theory.

POPULAR BELIEFS

To freeze a living thing means, to most minds, to kill it. Yet all hardy plants can be frozen without

being injured. So can many insects, if they are not broken while in that brittle state. In many parts of the world it is believed that a snake will not die until sunset, no matter how vigorously one hacks at it. If by chance you kill the snake after sunset, according to these theories, it would not die until sunrise, while as a matter of fact it takes just so much time for the flesh of the snake to stop its motion; in the same manner it requires so much time for a chicken to cease jumping after its head is cut off.

It is an old, old belief, or superstition, that cats see better in the dark. They see better than we do, no doubt; but that is not saying much.

There used to be a belief, or superstition, that rats never went on a ship that was destined to founder at sea. This has a fine supernatural ring; but, as a matter of fact, has a good deal of truth at the bottom. Unseaworthy vessels in the olden days were likely to be leaky and contain much bilge-water. The rats would naturally abandon such damp quarters for a dryer berth.

When a woman opens a closet and a moth flies out she thinks, as a rule, that the moth has been eating her clothes. However, the fact is the creature does its eating in the grub stage, and is harmless when it has become a flying thing—save that it will produce a numerous quantity of young to carry on the damaging work.

The pendulum does not make the clock go; it merely makes it go evenly.

Many a person believes that a soft-boiled egg that has been allowed to cool cannot be made hard by a second boiling. Try it!

WHAT ARE FALLACIES?

Fallacy is from the Latin verb *fallere*, to deceive. As psychologists tell us, fallacies proceed either from reasoning falsely from correct premises or from reasoning correctly from false premises. The greater part of them, especially those held by children, are to be ascribed to false reasoning from correct premises. Children, it is needless to point out, are usually provided with plenty of imagination, and these imaginations stick to some people all through life, for they never take pains to investigate to see whether their imaginations are right, but take great pleasure in telling it to their children and grand-children. That is how people become peasants.

ODD FACTS GLEANED FROM MANY SOURCES

There are two distinct United States histories used in the public schools; one is taught in the North the other in the South, and they contradict each other; therefore, we have no authentic history of the United States.

Harmonica is the Deutsch (German) name for the mouth-harp, and that particular musical instrument was manufactured only by Hohner of Deutschland. A similar musical instrument made by the French is called a French harp. Those made in America are named mouth-harps or mouth-organs. But those imported from Deutschland (Germany) are harmonicas.

There never was a peasant banished from Nova Scotia or Arcadia. They were deported because they refused to become loyal subjects to the King of England, who had conquered the country in that year.

How many people know there was once a state of Franklin within the limits of the United States? This

state of Franklin was a part of the present state of Kentucky. The people became dissatisfied and were given permission to separate from Kentucky, but two or three years later the permission was revoked. This occurred between 1787 and 1791.

Turkeys did not come from Turkey, but from North America. The name was applied from the fact that they were foreign birds when introduced into Europe from the New World in 1530. Turkey at that time was a vague term and often meant Tartary.

Irish stew is unknown in Ireland. There is a stew made in Ireland which contains, besides meat, twenty or thirty other ingredients. It is not called "Irish stew," however.

Japanese tea trays are not in use in Japan. They are only manufactured for the American and British trade.

Great Dane dogs are unknown in Denmark. The name is simply applied to a certain breed of dogs raised in the United States.

Blacklead has no connection with lead, it being a compound of carbon and iron.

Sealing-wax is not wax, nor does it contain a single particle of wax. It is made of shellac, Venice turpentine and cinnabar.

"Free gratis" is not a correct form of speech, as free and gratis mean the same.

La grippe had its origin in France, "la" being the French word for "the." Therefore, when you say you have the la grippe you are not speaking correctly but are simply using the same word in two languages.

Cuttle-bone is not bone, but a structure of pure chalk imbedded loosely in the substance of a specie of cuttle-fish.

Black and white are not colors. Black is dark and white is light.

Galvanized iron is not galvanized. It is simply iron coated with zinc.

Coppers and nickels are not legal tender.

Deutsch (German) silver is not silver, but a metallic mixture, the composition of which was attributed to a native of Deutschland (Germany). However, it cannot bear the "Made in Germany" stamp, as it has been in use in Cathay (China) time out of mind.

Rice paper is not made from rice, but from the pith of tungtaw, or hollowplant, so-called because it is hollow when the pith is removed.

Wormwood has nothing to do with worms or wood. In fact it is a corrupted word, the original being "wormod," a very bitter plant used in the manufacture of absinthe, a strong drink, which eventually destroys the mind of the user.

Natural mahogany wood is white until it is stained red.

It has been over two hundred years since violin strings have been made of cat-gut. They are manufactured by large packing houses, and are made of sheep-gut.

There is no such thing as white gold. White gold and green gold are manufactured by adulterating it with quicksilver, zinc or various other things. All pure gold is yellow.

The original name of gymnasium referred to a school that was entirely devoted to education and was not a place of physical training.

A bacon is a hog on foot.

Transpire and perspire have the same meaning.

POPULAR HISTORICAL INCIDENTS THAT NEVER HAPPENED

History abounds in things that never happened.

Wellington never said, "Up, Guards, and at them!" at the battle of Waterloo.

Dick Whittington never came to London with a cat.

William Tell never shot the apple off his son's head. In fact, such a person as William Tell never existed.

Horatius never defended the bridge.

The old story about Lady Godiva has been absolutely disproved.

Mount Ararat was not a mountain, but a region.

George Washington never cut down a cherry tree, nor did he throw a dollar across the Delaware River. Martha Washington was not his legal wife; she was his mother. His wife's name was Mary. You may know this, but there are thousands who do not.

POPULAR QUOTATIONS FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO THE HOLY BIBLE

Among popular quotations that are falsely attributed to the Holy Bible are these:

"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." The origin of this is from Sterne's "Sentimental Journey to Italy."

"In the midst of life we are in death."—Burial service, originally from Luther.

"Cleanliness is akin to godliness."

"Little children, love ye one another."

Bibles still carry the date 4004 B.C. opposite the first chapter of Genesis. But very few people of to-day believe that the world was only 4000 years old when Jesus was born.



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